

Excerpts for Chapter 6 -- From Ron

1. **IRS/Social Security Records** -- To resolve any dispute regarding Lee Harvey Oswald's employment history or sources of income, the Review Board sought to inspect and publicly release Internal Revenue Service and Social Security Administration records on Oswald. However, IRS would not open up these records, citing Section 6103 of the IRS Code, which prohibits disclosure of tax-related information (the JFK Act explicitly preserved this confidentiality provision). Accordingly, the Review Board asked Marina Oswald to consent to the release of Oswald's tax returns, but she would not do so. The Review Board also requested IRS to consider any legal avenue for releasing these records, but IRS concluded -- in a 20-page legal analysis -- that Oswald's tax records could not be released to the public. Oswald's tax return records, and other tax related information in Warren Commission files, remain closed to the public.

Nonetheless, the Review Board inspected certain quarterly reports submitted by Oswald's employers to the Social Security Administration and thereby verified Oswald's employment history and income through records that, we believe, were not inspected by the Warren Commission. The records are consistent with what is known and reported about Oswald's employment and income. *See* [cite Doug's memo].

2. **INS Records on Lee and Marina Oswald** -- One of the issues that have related to Lee Harvey Oswald and Marina involve their admittance to the United States in 1962. The public has often asked how Lee Harvey Oswald could have been allowed to re-enter the United States after defecting and how Marina could have been allowed to leave the Soviet Union when emigration was not normally permitted. Regarding this issue, the Review Board secured from the Immigration and Naturalization Service the public release of its original files on Lee and Marina.

3. **Records on Vietnam/Church Committee Testimony** -- Among the major issues involving Vietnam was the assassination of President Diem and his brother in November 1963 (shortly before President Kennedy's assassination). The Review Board secured the public release of classified testimony on this issue by CIA officials William Colby and Conein Lucien before the Church Committee [we're still awaiting the latter testimony from SSCI]. Their testimony had been cited as a major source for the Church Committee's report on the Diem assassination, but had been classified for over 20 years.

4. **FBI/Hoover and Tolson Records** -- The Review Board sought to ascertain whether FBI Director Hoover and Associate Director Clyde Tolson kept any separate records on President Kennedy's assassination within their own personal or working files, including within the famous "Official and Confidential" (O&C) files maintained by Hoover. Within the O&C files, the Review Board designated as assassination records the two O&C files on John Kennedy, the O&C file relating to Secret Service-FBI agreements on Presidential protection, a memorandum regarding Hoover's conversation with Lyndon Johnson about the assassination (from the Johnson O&C file), and several

other documents from the O&C files. Since Hoover's telephone logs are publicly available in the FBI's reading room, the Review Board saw no need to designate those as assassination records. Finally, Hoover maintained various subject files (apart from the O&C files), including materials on the assassination. The Review Board asked the FBI to locate these materials, but the FBI (so far) has been unsuccessful. *See* January 8, 1998 Review Board Staff Memorandum regarding Assassination Records Among the Files of J. Edgar Hoover.

The Review Board also reviewed the Tolson files, which consisted solely of original memoranda from Director Hoover. Unfortunately, the chron file started with January 1965, and the FBI could not account for any 1963-64 files that Tolson may have maintained. Several documents were identified as assassination records. *See* February 12, 1998 Review Board Staff Memorandum regarding Review of Clyde Tolson Files.

5. Foreign Government Records--Russia and Byelorussia-- The Review Board has made extensive attempts to secure Soviet Government records, including KGB files, maintained on Lee and Marina Oswald during the 1959 to 1962 time period. These records relate to KGB surveillance of Oswald while he lived in the Soviet Union. They are quoted and relied upon in Norman Mailer's book, *Oswald's Tale*, and apparently reflect Oswald's activities and conversations during his two-year stay in the Soviet Union. These records were never seen by the Warren Commission, by any Congressional investigation of Kennedy's assassination, or by the American public. These records are unquestionably of historical importance. In fact, Congress specifically recognized this by including in the JFK Act its sense that the State Department should attempt to secure from Russia all Soviet Government records relating to the assassination.

In conjunction with the State Department, the Review Board met with representatives of the Governments of Belarus and Russia and requested the KGB records, but the request was denied. The Review Board then approached the writers of *Oswald's Tale* (Mr. Mailer and Lawrence Schiller) to ask that they donate their copies of these KGB records. They denied our request. The Review Board then asked the Department of Justice to subpoena the records from Mr. Schiller on the grounds that the Review Board could not obtain the records from the Russian or Belarussian Governments and that, to the Review Board's knowledge, Mr. Schiller held the only copy of these records within the United States. The Department of Justice refused to issue the subpoena, a decision with which the Review Board strongly disagreed. At the time of this Final Report, the KGB records on Oswald had not been secured.

6. White House Communications Agency -- The Review Board sought to locate any audio recordings of voice communications to or from Air Force One on the day of the assassination, including communications between Air Force One and Andrews Air Force during its return flight from Dallas to Washington, D.C. Although certain tapes of these transmissions are available at the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library, the Review Board asked the White House Communications Agency and the Air Force to locate any additional tapes that may have been made. Neither agency

could locate or account for any additional tapes.

7. **Sixth Floor Museum in Dallas** -- The Sixth Floor Museum in Dallas, Texas is a museum dedicated to providing information to the public on President Kennedy's assassination, and it has an archives section that holds original films and documents relating to the assassination. The Museum is located on the sixth floor of the former Texas School Depository from which Oswald shot President Kennedy. The Review Board sought to identify any significant records held by the Museum that, in its determination, should be available in the JFK Collection. After deposing archival officials of the Sixth Floor Museum and thereafter negotiating with the Museum, the Review Board secured for the JFK Collection the Museum's donation of copies of: Parkland Hospital records regarding medical treatment of President Kennedy; autopsy records for Oswald, Ruby, and police officer Tippit; court papers regarding the criminal trial of Jack Ruby; papers of Dr. Charles J. Carrico, one of the attending physicians at Parkland Hospital; and various home movies depicting the Presidential motorcade in Dallas. [Status of McKenzie papers re Marina Oswald unclear]

8. **Frank Ragano Papers** -- Mr. Frank Ragano, who passed away in 1998, was an attorney for Jimmy Hoffa and Santo Trafficante, major figures associated with organized crime. In 1994, Mr. Ragano published his book *Mob Lawyer*, which purported to be "the inside account of who killed Jimmy Hoffa and JFK." In his book, Mr. Ragano claimed that Jimmy Hoffa had used Ragano as a messenger to ask organized crime figures Trafficante and Carlos Marcello to arrange for the murder of President Kennedy. Mr. Ragano wrote that Trafficante, in 1987, confessed to involvement in President Kennedy's assassination. The book, co-authored by *New York Times* reporter Selwyn Raab, stated that original notes of Ragano supported his assertions.

Believing Mr. Ragano might possess original, contemporaneous notes regarding meetings with organized crime figures relating to the assassination of President Kennedy, the Review Board subpoenaed the notes and deposed Mr. Ragano (G. Robert Blakey, former counsel to the House Select Committee on Assassinations, had also recommended that the Review Board depose Mr. Ragano). Mr. Ragano produced several handwritten notes regarding the assassination, but he could not definitively, and under oath, state whether they were written contemporaneously with his meetings in the 1960's or later in connection with his book. See Transcript of Frank Ragano Deposition, dated February 11, 1997. The Review Board submitted the original notes to the Secret Service to see if the notes could be dated. The results of the Service's analysis was inconclusive. See July 1, 1997 Review Board Staff Memorandum on the Secret Service Report Re Ragano Notes. Copies of the relevant notes are included as exhibits to the deposition of Mr. Ragano. The transcript and audio recording of Mr. Ragano's testimony are available to the public as part of the Review Board's records.

9. **John Mohr (FBI)** -- In an attempt to locate any records of FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover and Associate Director Clyde Tolson regarding the assassination, the Review Board subpoenaed the estate of John Mohr, former Assistant to the FBI Director. Mr. Mohr had died in early 1997. Mr. Mohr reported directly to Director Hoover and Associate Director Tolson at the time of the

assassination and was executor for the estate of Mr. Tolson. In addition, Mr. Mohr was involved in the controversial disposition of Mr. Hoover's files upon Hoover's death in 1972. With the cooperation of Mr. Mohr's family, the Review Board staff was able to inspect materials that Mr. Mohr had in his possession on the assassination. The Review Board confirmed that these materials were copies of publicly available material. See August 14, 1997 Review Board Staff Memorandum Regarding Review of John Mohr Records.

10. **Deeds of Gift -- Abe Fortas (Pending) --** The Review Board secured the donation of copies of certain papers of Abe Fortas, former Supreme Court Justice and advisor to President Johnson. These include drafts of President Johnson's and Mrs. Johnson's written statements to the Warren Commission, as well as material rebutting points in William Manchester's *The Death of a President*. Consistent with the original donation of Fortas' papers to Yale University, the assassination-related materials will be opened in January 2001.